

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BONN 17425 01 OF 02 061837Z

47

ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EURE-00 SAJ-01 PM-03 SAM-01 SP-02

CIAE-00 INR-05 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 DODE-00

PRS-01 EB-03 RSC-01 L-01 /046 W

----- 009357

O R 061820Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6111

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 17425

LIMDIS

DEPT PASS SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GW, PO

SUBJECT: VITOR ALVES' VISIT TO BONN

REF: LISBON 4752

SUMMARY: HEAD OF FONOFF'S WESTERN EUROPEAN DIVISION,
RUHFUS, HAS BRIEFED EMBOFFS ON INITIAL PHASE OF ALVES'
VISIT TO BONN PRIMARILY HIS TALK ON NOVEMBER 5 WITH
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BONN 17425 01 OF 02 061837Z

FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER.

GERMANS ARE IMPRESSED WITH ALVES AND REGARD HIS VISIT, WHICH TOOK PLACE AT PORTUGUESE INITIATIVE, AS USEFUL. RUHFUS BELIEVES ALVES' MAIN PURPOSE WAS TO REASSURE IMPORTANT WESTERN EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR STABLE POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT IN PORTUGAL. ECONOMIC ASPECTS WERE IMPORTANT BUT SECONDARY. END SUMMARY.

1. ALVES TOLD HIS GERMAN HOSTS THAT THE CHANGES WHICH TOOK PLACE IN SEPTEMBER HAD NOT ALTERED THE PROGRAM OF THE ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT (MFA). PORTUGAL WAS PRESENTLY IN A "PRE-DEMOCRATIC STATE". THE GOAL OF THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT, AS WELL AS OF THE MFA, WAS TO CONSTRUCT A "PLURALISTIC DEMOCRACY". THEY WERE DETERMINED NOT TO LET PORTUGAL SLIP AGAIN INTO A DICTATORSHIP EITHER OF THE RIGHT OR THE LEFT.

2. RUHFUS SAID THAT ALVES HAD TO SOME EXTENT CRITICIZED THE WESTERN PRESS FOR FAILING TO UNDERSTAND DEVELOPMENTS IN PORTUGAL. ON THE OTHER HAND, HE RECOGNIZED THAT THE REACTION OF SHOCK AND CONCERN IN MANY WESTERN DEMOCRACIES WAS UNDERSTANDABLE OR AT LEAST EXPLICABLE PARTICULARLY BECAUSE OF THE UNFORTUNATE TIMING OF PORTUGAL'S REVOLUTION. THIS HAD COME AT A TIME WHEN COMMUNIST PARTIES WERE BEGINNING TO MAKE DISTURBING PROGRESS IN SOME WESTERN DEMOCRACIES AND WHEN THERE WAS AN OVERALL DETERIORATION IN THE ECONOMIC PROSPECTS FOR THE INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES OF THE WEST. THIS COMBINATION OF CIRCUMSTANCES HAD BEEN TO PORTUGAL'S DISADVANTAGE.

3. IN ASKING FOR ALVES' ESTIMATE OF ELECTION PROSPECTS IN PORTUGAL, GENSCHER PARTICULARLY EMPHASIZED THAT THE FRG, AS AN ALLY OF PORTUGAL AND A FRIEND OF THE PORTUGUESE PEOPLE, HOPED THAT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO FORM A GOVERNMENT IN LISBON WITHOUT COMMUNIST PARTICIPATION. GENSCHER POINTED IN THIS CONNECTION TO THE GERMANS' EXPERIENCE WITH COMMUNIST PARTIES AND HE PARTICULARLY MENTIONED HIS PERSONAL EXPERIENCE JUST AFTER THE WAR IN EAST GERMANY, WHERE THERE HAD BEEN AN ALMOST SEAMLESS SHIFT FROM ONE FORM OF DICTATORSHIP TO

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BONN 17425 01 OF 02 061837Z

ANOTHER.

4. ALVES CONFIRMED THAT ELECTIONS FOR A CONSTITUTIONAL ASSEMBLY WOULD BE HELD BEFORE MARCH 31, 1975 AND ESTIMATED THAT PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS COULD BE HELD IN SEPTEMBER OF THE SAME YEAR. HE THOUGHT THAT THE PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST PARTY HAD ALREADY REACHED A HIGH-POINT WHERE, IF ELECTIONS WERE HELD RIGHT NOW, IT MIGHT

WIN AS MUCH AS 20 PERCENT OF THE VOTE. HE HOPED THAT
BY THE TIME ELECTIONS WERE ACTUALLY HELD THE OTHER
PARTIES WOULD HAVE CONSOLIDATED THEIR POSITIONS AND THAT
THE INFLUENCE OF THE COMMUNISTS ACCORDINGLY WOULD HAVE
DIMINISHED. IN ANY EVENT, THE MARCH ELECTION WOULD BE
ONLY A "TEST". THE ONES IN SEPTEMBER WOULD BE MORE
IMPORTANT, AND HE THOUGHT IT QUITE POSSIBLE THEY
WOULD PRODUCE A RESULT PERMITTING THE FORMATION OF A
GOVERNMENT WITHOUT THE COMMUNISTS.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BONN 17425 02 OF 02 061837Z

47

ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EURE-00 SAJ-01 PM-03 SAM-01 SP-02

CIAE-00 INR-05 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 DODE-00

PRS-01 EB-03 RSC-01 L-01 /046 W

----- 009367

O R 061820Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6112

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 17425

LIMDIS

5. COMMENTING ON THE ROLE OF THE MFA, ALVES SAID THEY HAD ORIGINALLY TAKEN THE "IDEALISTIC" VIEW THAT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE, FOLLOWING THE LAUNCHING OF THE POLITICAL PARTIES, TO PULL BACK WITHOUT TAKING AN ACTIVE PART IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS. IN THE MEANTIME, THE MFA HAD RECOGNIZED THAT THIS WAS NOT AS EASY AS IT HAD AT FIRST SEEMED. HOWEVER, THEIR POSITION WAS STILL THAT THEY DID NOT WANT TO CONSTITUTE THEMSELVES AS A POLITICAL PARTY BUT RATHER TO CONTINUE TO SERVE AS GUARANTOR OF A DEMOCRATIC DEVELOPMENT. THEY WERE CONTINUING TO STUDY THE SITUATION CAREFULLY TO SEE HOW

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BONN 17425 02 OF 02 061837Z

THIS COULD BEST BE DONE.

6. STATE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, VITOR CONSTANCIO, PRESENTED PORTUGAL'S VIEWS ON ECONOMIC COOPERATION, ESPECIALLY PORTUGAL'S DESIRE FOR CLOSER TIES WITH THE EC. NOTING THAT THIS SUBJECT WOULD BE DISCUSSED AT MEETING OF PORTUGUESE-EC JOINT COMMISSION ON NOVEMBER 25-26, CONSTANCIO REQUESTED THE SUPPORT OF THE FRG FOR THE PORTUGUESE VIEWPOINT AT THE FORTHCOMING EC COUNCIL MEETING ON NOVEMBER 12. CONSTANCIO SAID THAT PORTUGAL, BECAUSE IT NEEDED TO BUILD UP ITS INDUSTRY, WOULD BE UNABLE TO REDUCE ITS OWN CUSTOMS DUTIES BY 1979 AS PROVIDED FOR IN PORTUGUESE-EC AGREEMENT. HE STRESSED THAT PORTUGAL WELCOMED FOREIGN INVESTMENT AND FELT THAT PORTUGAL PROVIDED AN ATTRACTIVE CLIMATE FOR SUCH INVESTMENT. IN ORDER TO PROMOTE ITS OWN EXPORTS, PORTUGAL HOPED TO PERSUADE EC COUNTRIES TO REDUCE DUTIES IN A NUMBER OF AREAS, PARTICULARLY TEXTILES, CORK, AND PAPER. PORTUGAL WAS ALSO INTERESTED IN OBTAINING EIB LOANS. IT HAD A PARTICULAR INTEREST IN CAPITAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE FRG.

7. BOTH ALVES AND CONSTANCIO STRESSED THE POLITICAL IMPORTANCE OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION IN THE LIGHT OF THE FORTHCOMING ELECTIONS IN PORTUGAL. IT WAS VITAL THAT THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT BE ABLE TO DEMONSTRATE CONVINCINGLY TO THE PORTUGUESE PEOPLE THAT PORTUGAL'S EUROPEAN FRIENDS WERE PREPARED TO ASSIST.

8. GENSCHER EXPRESSED HIS REGRET THAT HE WOULD BE UNABLE TO VISIT LISBON BEFORE THE END OF 1974 BUT SAID HE HOPED TO MAKE THE VISIT EARLY NEXT YEAR.

HILLENBRAND

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION, VISITS, MEETINGS, ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BONN17425
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740318-1085
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741168/aaaacfh1.tel
Line Count: 222
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: LISBON 4752
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 APR 2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <08-Aug-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VITOR ALVES' VISIT TO BONN
TAGS: PFOR, GE, PO, (ALVES, VICTOR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005